

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SEN. SCOTT TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETING Second of Three Environmental Task Force Forums

(LANSING) – Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) will host a community-wide meeting on **Thursday, May 20 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Highland Park Career Academy, Glendale at Second Ave. in Highland Park**, to discuss Michigan's environment. The forum will include presentations by Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom and environmental experts from the Michigan Department of Community Health who will demonstrate how to test for lead poisoning in the home.

Sen. Scott will also be joined by task force member Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor). The gathering is sponsored by a Senate Democratic task force to study the impacts of key environmental issues on the health of Michigan children.

“We’re focusing on children because children eat more, drink more, and breathe more per pound than adults and may ingest more pollution and toxins per pound of body weight than adults,” Sen. Scott said.

The focus on children is a response to their vulnerability to environmental hazards like lead paint, with their bodies absorbing 50 percent of the lead they ingest compared to a 10 percent rate in adults. Also, because their systems are still developing, children are more susceptible to environmental threats. A pollution exposure that would not harm an adult may cause lifelong problems for a child because of their longer life spans and evolving central nervous systems.

The environmental forum is one of three such task force sessions being held across southeast Michigan during the next several weeks. Sen. Brater will host the first forum on May 13, at Washtenaw Community College, to focus on the link between environmental toxins

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and children's health. Sen. Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) will host a third forum on June 3, at Metro Beach in Harrison Township, to address clean beaches.

Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom is Michigan's first surgeon general. Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed her to the position in February 2003. Dr. Wisdom has been a board-certified emergency medicine physician at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit where she founded and directed the Institute on Multicultural Health.

For more information on the Town Hall Meetings, call (517) 373-2406. To access a photo of Dr. Wisdom, click on <http://www.senate.mi.gov/scott/pr050504>.

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.